

846 umbilical cord was not buried; how dare you boast? You are but a
614 stranger." Therefore this custom constitutes a sort of matriculation
into the family. If anyone wants to be entirely certain of a Nkundó's
clan, he has only to look for the place where his umbilical cord was
buried.

5) The end of seclusion is marked by a few ceremonies.

846 A. A meal. Early in the morning of the day set, the hus-
302 band goes and cuts a bunch of fruit of the palm tree, and the helper
goes and picks manioc leaves (nowadays leaves and fruit collected
the day before are sometimes used). The helper crushes all of this
to make a dish of food. While she cooks it over the fire, she shaves
a little hair off the mother, plucks out one eyebrow, and cuts one
of her nails. Then she does the same to the child. The helper
moves away, and the father comes in. His wife subjects him to
the same treatment, and he reciprocates, doing the same to the
child. The rubbish is simply thrown away without any ceremony.
This practice has no special name; the Nkundó say: bíyaténa
bekengo, bíyakenga. "They shave each other's heads."

846 When the vegetables are ready, all the women of the vil-
lage are gathered together. A little pit is dug in front of the hut.
A large leaf is placed in it to serve as a dish, and the vegetables
are poured into it. The mother, the helper, and all those assem-
bled eat. Except for a few small boys no representatives of the
stronger sex are present. When the meal is completed, [490] the
leaf that served as a plate and those that served as spoons are buried
in the pit. Today the more advanced of the population use a European
plate and spoons. The meal and the vegetables eaten are called
losanganya, "reunion," because the entire village is united in par-
taking of them, or lofanjola, "dispersion," because it is the prelude
to the end of the bokeka.

B. Then follows the ceremony of separation (-téma bofofo,
or, among the Injóló, bokélekéké. (1) The bofofo is the mid-rib

- [7x]
1. The expression and the ceremony
designated by it are used whenever an
important matter, such as a trial, etc.,
is to be terminated.